

CREATION

Text: Read and study Genesis 1:1 - 2:9,15

Teaching Point: God made everything and it was good.

WARM UP 1

The object is to teach that God made all things out of nothing. Prior to the session collect some empty containers, labelled sugar, flour, currants, etc., an empty butter dish and egg carton, a cake tin, mixing bowl, cooking implements and a box to be an oven. Dress up as a cook and tell the children that you are going to make a cake. Pretend to take out spoonfuls of ingredients and mix them into a bowl. Put the contents of the bowl into a cake tin and put into the pretend oven. Take it out quickly and show it to the children. Point out that there is nothing there and ask them why. Lead into the fact that you cannot make a cake from nothing; you need something to start from - ingredients. Say, 'Today's true story from the Bible is about someone who made something from nothing. I want you to come back after the Bible story and tell me:

1. Who made something from nothing?
2. What did he make from nothing?
3. How did he make it from nothing?

For younger children, only questions 1 and 2 may be appropriate.



CONSOLIDATION 1

The object is to teach the order of the days of creation. Start by demonstrating each action for the children to copy. The leader will call out 'Day (a number between 1 and 7)'. The children will perform the appropriate action for that day, A whistle is helpful to restore order. When blown the children freeze. Repeat the process for as long as they are interested, but do not push their boredom threshold.

Actions:

1. Day and night - cover eyes with hands to make dark (night) and remove them to make light (day).
2. Sky - point to the heavens.
3. Sea & land - run to the water's edge and retreat as the waters come up the beach.
4. Sun, moon & stars - open and close hands to show twinkling stars.
5. Fish & birds - open mouths wide and close them for the fish, flap arms up and down for birds.
6. Animals and people - make animal sounds or just talk.
7. Rest - fall onto floor and stay motionless.

An alternative way is for the leader to say, 'Let there be light, etc.' and to do the appropriate action. Whenever the leader prefaces the statement with the words, 'God said ...', the children copy the leader. When those words are omitted the children do nothing.

WIND UP 1

Review the questions from the Warm Up. Make sure the children understand the answers. Remind them that God started and completed everything, it was perfect and good. It was all made from nothing and God did it by speaking (i.e. commanding), which shows how powerful he is. Go over the order of creation. End by reinforcing the fact that God made everything and it was all very good.

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Teaching Point: God made everything and it was good.



WARM UP 2

The object is to teach about someone who made everything by commanding it to happen. Place some items of fruit or some toys on a table. If using fruit, choose an apple or an orange and a banana. Place the orange on the table so the children can see it. Ask for a volunteer from the children and instruct them to talk to the orange and change it into a banana or an apple without touching it. They can only use their voices to command. Nothing will happen. The leader then does the same. Nothing will happen. Substitute the other fruits and repeat the process. Ask the children why the fruit did not change. Lead them on to reply that you cannot change something or make something by speaking to it. Say, 'Today's true story from the Bible is about someone who made everything by speaking or commanding it to happen. I want you to tell me later:

1. Who spoke and made things happen?
2. What happened when he spoke?'

If you are using toys as the teaching props, command them to move or perform, especially the electronic ones, but with no touching. Lead into the story as outlined above.

CONSOLIDATION 2

The object is to teach the order of creation. Use pictures to identify the different days of creation. Place them face down on the floor at random. The children march around in a circle outside the pictures and when told to stop, choose one child to turn a picture over. When the picture is turned over, ask the group, 'Which day is this?' Do not continue until the right answer is given. Repeat until all the pictures are turned over and then place them in order of Day 1 to Day 7. Repeat the creation order as you go, e.g. Day 1 – day and night, Day 2 – Sky.

Pieces of paper with numbers 1-7 inclusive can also be used and the same rules applied. The 14 sheets of paper, 7 numbered and 7 with pictures, could be arranged at random in a circle. If the children are unable to match the number and picture, use the actions from Consolidation 1 as reinforcement, e.g. for Day 7, rest - fall on the floor and stay motionless.

WIND UP 2

Review the questions from the Warm Up. Remind the children that only God can bring things into being by his words. We cannot do that because we are not God. Everything that was created happened by God commanding it to happen. Remind them of the order of creation.